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## OUTCOMES OF THE 22<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

PREPARED BY: IOTC SECRETARIAT, 17 DECEMBER 2018

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### PURPOSE

To inform participants at the 7<sup>th</sup> Working Party on Temperate Tunas (WPTmT07(DP)) of the decision and requests made by the Commission at its 22<sup>nd</sup> Session, held from 21-25 May 2018, specifically relating to the work of the WPTmT.

### BACKGROUND

At the 22<sup>st</sup> Session, the Commission **CONSIDERED** and **ADOPTED** 10 proposals as Conservation and Management Measures (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations), as detailed below:

### Resolutions

- Resolution 18/01 *On an interim plan for rebuilding the Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna stock in the IOTC Area of Competence*
- Resolution 18/02 *On management measures for the conservation of blue shark caught in association with IOTC fisheries*
- Resolution 18/03 *On establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence*
- Resolution 18/04 *On bioFAD experimental project*
- Resolution 18/05 *On management measures for the conservation for the conservation of billfish, striped marlin, black marlin, blue marlin and Indo-Pacific sailfish*
- Resolution 18/06 *On establishing a programme for transshipment by large-scale fishing vessels*
- Resolution 18/07 *On measures applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations in the IOTC*
- Resolution 18/08 *Procedures on a fish aggregating devices (FADs) management plan, including a limitation on the number of FADs, more detailed specifications of catch reporting from FAD sets, and the development of improved fad design to reduce the incidence of entanglement of non-target species*
- Resolution 18/09 *On a scoping study of socio-economic indicators of IOTC fisheries*
- Resolution 18/10 *On vessel chartering in the IOTC Area of Competence.*

Pursuant to Article IX.4 of the IOTC Agreement, the above-mentioned Conservation and Management Measures shall become binding on Members, 120 days from the date of the notification communicated by the Secretariat.

### DISCUSSION

The Commission also made a number of general comments on the recommendations made by the Scientific Committee in 2018, which have relevance for the WPTmT. At the time of writing, the final report has not been approved so all text and paragraph numbers refer to the *draft* report of the Commission pending final agreement by all parties (IOTC–2018–S22–R):

#### *Report of the 20th Session of the Scientific Committee (SC20)*

(Para. 26): The Commission NOTED the stock status summaries for species of tuna and tuna-like species under the IOTC mandate, as well as other species impacted by IOTC fisheries (Appendix 5) and considered the recommendations made by the SC20 in its report that related specifically to the Commission. The Commission **ENDORSED** the SC 2017 list of recommendations as its own, noting the additional activities requested by the Commission at this meeting.

#### *On the status of tropical and temperate tunas*

(Para. 29) The Commission noted that the current status of tropical and temperate tunas is as follows:

**Albacore tuna**

An albacore assessment was carried out in 2016. The stock is not overfished and not subject to overfishing. A precautionary approach to the management of albacore tuna should be applied by capping total catch levels to MSY levels.

**Consideration of management measures related to all species**

(Para. 52) The Commission **ADOPTED** Resolution 18/08 *On procedures on a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Management Plan, Including a Limitation on the Number of FADs, More Detailed Specifications of Catch Reporting from FAD sets, and the Development of Improved FAD Design to Reduce the Incidence of Entanglement of Non-Target Species*.

(Para. 54) The Commission **AGREED** to defer IOTC-2018-S22-PropD and PropJ *On a Regional Observer Scheme*. The proponents of these proposals attempted to merge the two proposals; however, they agreed more work needed to be done to reach a consensus and indicated that a revised proposal will be submitted to the next session of the Commission.

**Development of management procedures****Report of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures**

(Para. 69) The Commission **NOTED** the report (IOTC-2018-TCMP-02-R) from the 2nd meeting of the Technical Committee on Management Procedures (TCMP) and **ENDORSED** its recommendations.

(Para. 70) The Commission **NOTED** the success of the TCMP in engaging discussions on Management Procedures through the use of interactive tools.

(Para. 71) The Commission **NOTED** the importance of the work of the TCMP and in addressing MSE issues. The Commission further **NOTED** the TCMP workplan for 2019-2020 and the proposed budget of approximately US\$ 91,500 and **EXPRESSED** its support for this work to continue, provided there is no increase in overall Commission budget. To this end, the Commission **REQUESTED** the IOTC Secretariat to seek sources of extra-budgetary funds to support the proposed work.

(Para. 72) The Commission **NOTED** that the other tuna RFMOs are also undertaking work on management procedures and encouraged the TCMP to hold a dialogue with the t-RFMOS to ensure an exchange of information and to avoid duplication of work.

(Para. 73) The Commission **NOTED** the importance of data quality in developing management procedures and **RECOMMENDED** that the longline CPUE data for swordfish be made available and jointly standardized.

(Para. 74) The Commission **NOTED** that the Harvest Control Rule was implemented for skipjack tuna through Resolution 16/02 and **ENCOURAGED** CPCs to begin to develop management proposals for other IOTC species that are based on TCMP outputs and advice once the results of the current MSE analyses are reviewed and endorsed.

(Para. 75) The Commission **PROVIDED** directions on management objectives and guidance on the specifics of the risks and probabilities the Commission might want to consider to achieve its management objectives.

The complete report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission is available for download from the IOTC website: <http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2018/06/IOTC-2018-S22-RE.pdf>

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the WPTmT

- 1) **NOTE** paper IOTC–2019–WPTmT07(DP)–04 which outlined the *provisional* outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission, specifically related to the work of the WPTmT and **AGREE** to consider how best to provide the SC with the information it needs, in order to satisfy the Commission's requests, throughout the course of the current WPTmT meeting.
- 2) **NOTE** the 10 Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission (consisting of 10 Resolutions and 0 Recommendations).